

affiliation is the suffering and the poverty he saw during the Great Depression.

He has said that his philosophy of Government was formed during the Depression when he saw his father, a former miner and a storekeeper in rural Townley, give food to people who were literally starving. He openly admired Franklin Delano Roosevelt and what the New Deal did for Alabama and the Tennessee Valley.

Beginning in 1958, he served two terms in the Alabama State Senate. In 1966, he won his seat to the U.S. House and has been there ever since.

From the start, he earned the admiration and the respect of his colleagues by not ever allowing policy or political disagreements to become personal. He is known for his fairness in all of his dealings. He is a gentleman with a courtly manner that often eases tensions and invites compromise. He is principled and consistent, a man true to his word, his conscience, his constituents and his colleagues.

TOM BEVILL will be sorely missed when the 105th Congress convenes in January 1997, but I can certainly understand his decision, having made the same one earlier this year.

I wish him and his wonderful, gracious wife, Lou, all the best as they enter a new phase of their lives.

TRIBUTE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA FOOTBALL TEAM

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, in the bustling North Alabama town of Florence, an athletic dynasty reigns, cloaked in the royal purple and gold school colors, producing a championship heir each year since 1993. I come to the Senate floor today to tell you of an amazing group of young people at an outstanding university in my beloved State of Alabama.

Just days ago, on December 9, the University of North Alabama Lions claimed their third consecutive national championship in Division II football. This is an achievement unmatched in college football history by any team from that division or higher. Their victory came at the expense of a worthy opponent, Pittsburg State, with a final score of 27 to 7.

I can go on and on— and, mind you, I will in a moment— about the unbelievable records that have been set and broken by these champions over the past 3 years, but I would first like to call attention to a statement made by the UNA Lions Coach Bobby Wallace. In an interview with the Florence TimesDaily, Coach Wallace stressed that this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity of three championships in a row is not what made his team unique:

Don't get me wrong, I wanted very badly to win this game. But winning really wasn't that important. A win today wasn't going to make this team special. They were special long before today. All they did today was go out and prove they may be the best ever in Division II.

Mr. President, it is this type of attitude that sets the Lions apart as true champions. These young men and their outstanding coaches realize that winning isn't the true mark of a good team. Character, determination, dedication and hard work all factor into the champion spirit. However, I would be remiss if I failed to point out the obvious: In addition the champion spirit, UNA most definitely has the talent to capture the victory. And it is this astounding talent that I would like to note for the record.

Over 15,000 people attended the sold-out game at Braly Stadium and countless more watched on ESPN. Ken Berger of the Associated Press summarized the championship game: "It wasn't even close. North Alabama (14-0) shredded Kansas-based Pittsburg State (12-1-1), amassing 380 yards to the Gorillas' 176 and holding a 2-to-1 advantage in possession time."

Ronald McKinnon, senior linebacker, received the 1995 Harlon Hill Trophy as the NCAA Division II National Player of the Year. He is the first defensive player in the 10-year history of the award to finish in the top three, much less win the award. He proved worthy once again in the championship game with 14 tackles, one for a 5-yard loss and a recovered fumble that led to UNA's second touchdown.

Starting quarterback Cody Gross, suffering from a torn hip muscle, still managed to complete eight of 13 passes for 102 yards and a touchdown in addition to carrying the ball three times for four yards. He split the time with senior back-up quarterback Cale Manley who guided the team in a stunning 76-yard, 12-play drive on UNA's opening possession. Jermaine Roberts led UNA's championship game effort with 107 yards on 20 carries, scoring twice.

Mike Goens, regional editor at the Florence TimesDaily, described the atmosphere in the final 3 minutes of the game: "At that moment, an overcast afternoon turned to dusk. Metaphorically, the lights began going out for Pittsburg State. And the evening sky, fittingly, began turning shades of purple and gold."

The UNA Lions have dominated their field of play as no other college football team has, ever. They have a 3-year record of 41 wins and 1 loss. That loss was to the No. 1 ranked Division I-AA Youngstown State. The Lions are the only college football team at any level to win 40 games in 3 years. UNA's current 23-game winning streak is second best in the Nation, behind Division I's Nebraska with 24.

This team is indeed made up of outstanding young men. Nineteen of the fifty-two players who dressed out for the championship game are seniors. This senior class closed their collective careers as the winningest in school and Gulf South Conference history at 48-5-1.

Coach Wallace, not known as one to rest on his laurels, told the media after

the game that he plans to guide the UNA Lions to a fourth straight championship next season. That is the spirit of a true champion. For now, however, I join my voice with a legion of others in proudly hailing UNA's conquering heroes with the resounding cheer: "Go Lions."

A PROCLAMATION TO THE WORLD

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to draw my colleagues' attention to a recent proclamation made by President Gordon B. Hinckley on behalf of the First Presidency and Council of the Twelve Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

I believe this proclamation to be especially timely during this holiday season. The holidays often afford us the opportunity to reestablish family bonds. I believe President Hinckley's words have relevance for all Americans and will help each of us reaffirm our commitment to the primacy of the family as the basis for strong communities and to the sanctity of marriage as the foundation for healthy families.

I hope that the core principles expressed within this proclamation will continue to guide and strengthen us during this holiday season and into the coming year.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the proclamation be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the proclamation was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

A PROCLAMATION TO THE WORLD

(From the First Presidency and Council of the Twelve Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints)

This proclamation was read by President Gordon B. Hinckley as part of his message at the General Relief Society Meeting held September 23, 1995, in Salt Lake City, Utah.

We, the First Presidency and the Council of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, solemnly proclaim that marriage between a man and a woman is ordained of God and that the family is central to the Creator's plan for the eternal destiny of His children.

All human beings—male and female—are created in the image of God. Each is a beloved spirit son or daughter of heavenly parents, and, as such, each has a divine nature and destiny. Gender is an essential characteristic of individual premortal, mortal, and eternal identity and purpose.

In the premortal realm, spirit sons and daughters knew and worshiped God as their Eternal Father and accepted His plan by which His children could obtain a physical body and gain earthly experience to progress toward perfection and ultimately realize his or her divine destiny as an heir of eternal life. The divine plan of happiness enables family relationships to be perpetuated beyond the grave. Sacred ordinances and covenants available in holy temples make it possible for individuals to return to the presence of God and for families to be united eternally.

The first commandment that God gave to Adam and Eve pertained to their potential for parenthood as husband and wife. We declare that God's commandment for His children to multiply and replenish the earth remains in force. We further declare that God